



# PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY

**CR-101 (June 2004)**  
(Implements RCW 34.05.310)  
Do **NOT** use for expedited rule making

**Agency:** Department of Ecology A.O. 05-17

**Subject of possible rule making:** Amend WAC 173-224 – Wastewater Discharge Permit Fees

**Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject:** RCW 90.48 – Water Pollution Control

**Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish:** Ecology is proposing to amend the existing rule that will increase annual permit fees for fiscal years 2007 and 2008. The fee increase will allow Ecology to continue operation of the Wastewater Discharge Permit Program. RCW 90.48.465 – Water Pollution Control requires annual fees by paid by all holders of wastewater and stormwater discharge permits.

**Identify other federal and state agencies that regulate this subject and the process coordinating the rule with these agencies:**  
The Department of Agriculture conducts inspections and enforcement actions on dairies with permit coverage. However, Ecology issues the permit coverage and collects fee monies from the various dairy operations. Monies received are used by both Ecology and Agriculture.

**Process for developing new rule (check all that apply):**

- ☐ Negotiated rule making  
☐ Pilot rule making  
☐ Agency study

☒ Other (describe) This is an amendment to an existing rule. Ecology uses a Water Quality Partnership to provide guidance on various issues, one of which concerns amendments to the permit fee regulation. The Partnership consists of industrial permit holders, municipal permit holders, government entities, environmental groups, etc.

**How interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication:**

(List names, addresses, telephone, fax numbers, and e-mail of persons to contact; describe meetings, other exchanges of information, etc.)

Public comments can be submitted to: Bev Poston, Department of Ecology, Water Quality Program, PO Box 47600, Olympia Washington 98504-7600. Comments may be faxed to Bev Poston at 360/407-6426. Comments may be emailed to Bev Poston at [bpos461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:bpos461@ecy.wa.gov).

**DATE**

October 31, 2005

**NAME (TYPE OR PRINT)**

David C. Peeler

**SIGNATURE**

DAVE PEELER

**TITLE**

Water Quality Program Manager

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